

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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T. B. and "Mommie" Maston pose with their youngest son, Tom Mc, in front of Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth in 1986. Through dealing with Tom Mc's cerebral palsy and his recent death, the Mastons have experienced God's grace and have learned how to confront grief.

## 'Face grief,' say Mastons

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The home of T.B. and Essie Maston is silent now. The breakfast room once resounded with the laughter of an invalid son and the constant drone of his favorite television shows. Now a deafening silence fills the house.

Only the shuffling of aging feet walking across the wooden floor breaks the quiet. In recent months, those feet have walked a difficult path, one of overwhelming grief.

T.B. Maston, professor of Christian ethics emeritus at Southwestern Seminary, pioneered in teaching Southern Baptists how to live the Christian life. Many of his insights were developed through 61 years of caring for his eldest son, Tom Mc, born with cerebral palsy.

Maston and his wife, whom he affectionately calls "Mommie," devoted their lives to Tom Mc. Mrs. Maston gave up her own career to keep Tom Mc at home.

They refused to put him in a nursing home. They refused to keep him in the basement. They refused to think he could never amount to anything. With loving parental care, Tom Mc inspired people around the world.

Although he couldn't speak a word, Tom Mc accompanied his parents on multiple foreign mission trips and became the center of attention for visitors in his home and members of his church. And now Tom Mc is gone.

The Mastons speak about their grief frankly, admitting their hurts are no greater than those of any parent who has lost a child. But they realize those who have looked to them for advice on Christian living may now be looking for an example of Christian dying.

The advice they have is no supernatural revelation. They simply express a strong, simple faith in God and his providence. Tom Mc died Nov. 10. He was born Nov. 15, 1925, injured at birth by a doctor's misuse of forceps.

That was when the Mastons began learning how to deal with grief. Accepting Tom Mc's condition was even more difficult than accepting his death, Mrs. Maston said. "We had expected a normal child," she explained. "It took a number of years until I could completely say, 'Thy will be done.'"

All the doctors gave no hope. They advised the young parents to take the child home and do whatever they could. "We tried everything," Mrs. Maston recalled. "Nobody knew anything about cerebral palsy then."

While struggling to deal with the day-to-day concerns of an invalid child, the Mastons wrestled with their own questions about why this happened to them, she said. "I knew that God had not made a mistake. When I finally accepted it, that was a great relief. From that point on, the Mastons prayed they would outlive Tom Mc so they could care for him. They did just that through his 90th and her 89th years. Both parents agreed that made the difference in Tom Mc's life. As they worked with him, Tom Mc learned to say the vowel "I" as "yes" and to bat his eyes for "no."

"The redeeming thing was that he loved people and liked to be around people," Maston said. "He liked to go to church. Everywhere we went, Tom Mc made his own distinctive contribution."

An intimate relationship with God has sustained the Mastons through the difficult years, they said. "The ultimate control of all things is in God's hands," Maston said. "He let us have Tom Mc for almost 62 years. Tom Mc had a full life and contributed so much. That made it a little easier."

Honesty is the best policy for confronting grief, Maston said. "We need to face up to it and not act like it doesn't affect us, because it does. Every once in a while I have to stop and give vent to my emotions. 'Go ahead and express your grief. But do it in the right spirit.' Even in Tom Mc's injury at birth, the Mastons did not blame the doctor or God, they said. "Be sure you don't blame the Lord," Maston cautioned. "You better remember that the Lord is good. He wants to do what's best for us."

"The Lord doesn't make mistakes. We do sometimes. But God will give us the grace and strength that we need."

But when Christians do face grief, the proper response of others is important, Mrs. Maston added. "Don't say, 'You've got another chance.' That hits a mother hard. She's not grieving about the future. She's grieving about the present loss."

Often the best thing is "just to say nothing," she said. "An arm around the shoulder speaks more than words sometimes."

Both Mastons agreed the best counsel they received was to be reminded of God's answer to prayer. They had prayed that God would let them live long enough to care for Tom Mc all his life. And he did.

## Minnesota pastor saws logs

By Elizabeth Watson

BEMIDJI, Minn. (BP) — If you hear that pastor Ed Hart is sawing logs at church, don't think he's sleeping on the job.

Hart runs a volunteer sawmill to provide lumber for the construction of new church buildings in Minnesota and Wisconsin. When not splitting logs, Hart is "rightly dividing the word of God" as pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church in Bemidji, Minn.

Hart already helped build a parsonage and two churches. With the sawmill, he will cut building costs from \$50 to \$27 per square foot. He hopes to upgrade the sawmill and cut church-building costs to \$12 per square foot.

Hart is secretary/treasurer of the

Minnesota/Wisconsin alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and second vice president of the Minnesota/Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention.

"God has given me the vision of one Southern Baptist church in each of the 20 counties in the western half of Northwood Baptist Association," Hart said. "But the only way we're going to be able to build those churches is through programs like this that make church buildings affordable."

New Baptist churches in the North Central United States must choose between a pastor and a church building, Hart said, noting, "They can't afford both."

The sawmill helps resolve the problem. And Hart hopes his church will be able to upgrade the simple mill located on 10 acres of woodland south of town.

"We're kind of on our own in this venture. The (Southern Baptist) Home Mission Board doesn't have a department that covers sawmills."

Challenges abound in the Minnesota/Wisconsin convention. The nearest church to Ridgewood Baptist is 75 miles east. The second-nearest church is 100 miles in the other direction.

Elizabeth Watson writes for Southwestern Seminary.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## More on gambling

First Church, Gulfport, was host last week to a meeting of city and tourism officials on the Mississippi Gulf Coast relating to the issue of gambling in the coast counties.

The specific issue is the presence of a casino ship, the Europa Star, that is docked at Biloxi's Cadet Point. A measure before the Legislature, HB 413, would seek to make the presence of the ship legal. At this point gambling is illegal in all of Mississippi.

Pastor Dean Register called to report that he felt the meeting had been very productive. The mayors of both Biloxi and Gulfport were present along with a number of city council members. Also the head of the tourism operation was there.

Gerald Blessey is mayor of Biloxi, and Leroy Urie is mayor of Gulfport.

Register said that the meeting was set up to discuss alternatives to gambling as means of helping the ailing tourism business on the coast. "I feel that it was a very positive meeting," he said.

Pastors and members were present from Bayou View, Olivet, Grace, Pass Road, Handsboro, Biloxi First, Bay St. Louis First, Big Level, and Gulfport First among Baptists. Also representatives were present from Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Catholic churches.

Register said a theme park was mentioned among other alternatives. He noted that the religious community representatives admitted that they didn't have any magic answers to the tourism problem but that they were willing to help. "We sought to establish the fact that we feel that gambling in the area would be a mistake," he said.

Other Mississippi Baptists need to be aware of this situation along with Gulf Coast, because if gambling were to get a toe-hold anywhere in the state it would be all over the state in just a matter of time. We don't need it in the state anywhere, and that includes the Gulf Coast.

The House has passed HB 413 and has sent the bill on to the Senate. The battle now shifts to the Senate. Senators should be written with expressions of displeasure with the idea of having gambling going on in Mississippi or at some location off the coast in an effort to get around the law.

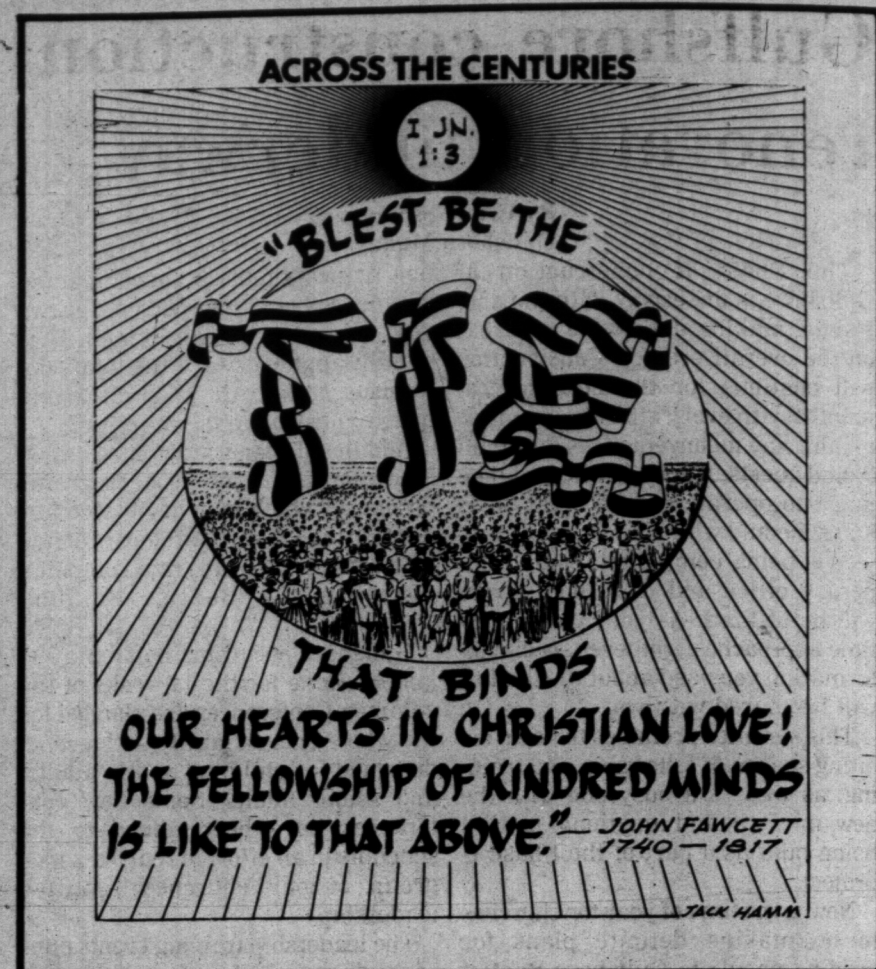
There are other bills of which Mississippi Baptists need to be aware. Some have been mentioned previously in the Baptist Record. HB 174 would allow package stores to sell food and party items. This would turn package stores into grocery stores and eventually could turn grocery stores into package stores.

SB 2002 would provide for tuition tax vouchers for students attending non-public colleges. This also we don't need. It would be a way of helping students at private schools, including religious schools, pay their tuition at the expense of the tax payers. That would be a collusion of church and state.

We have already discussed HCR 4, which would provide for a constitutional amendment to pave the way for a state lottery. Also there is HB 406, which would provide for a non-binding referendum on a state lottery. Make no mistake. If this were to pass, that non-binding referendum would be used extensively to support positions.

"When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not."

— MARK TWAIN



## Guest opinion . . .

### 'A church for everyone' (Means home missions)

By Presnall H. Wood

Shanghai Pierce was a Texas cattleman. The story is told of how religion was introduced to his sprawling ranch.

Pierce decided his hired hands needed a church, so he brought the lumber, ordered men to construct the building, and employed a preacher from St. Louis. Every Sunday morning the church bell rang at the same time, and cowboys came from every direction for the weekly worship service.

Once, when some Eastern writers were taking a tour of the ranch, they came to the little church building. Some of the visitors seemed surprised, and Pierce explained how he had personally directed the entire project.

One of the newsmen finally asked: "Do you belong to that church, Shanghai?"

"No," Pierce snapped, "Of course I don't belong to that church. It belongs to me."

Pierce may have owned the church property, but the church belongs to Jesus Christ. Since the church is own-

ed by Christ, the church should be for everyone.

The theme for the 1988 Week of Prayer for Home Missions in Southern Baptist life is "A Church for Everyone." The Scripture is Acts 28:30-31 (NIV): "For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ."

If the theme, "A Church for Everyone," is a question, the answer is that all need a church. Those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior should make such a profession public, follow Christ in believer's baptism, and be a member of a New Testament church.

If the theme, "A Church for Everyone," is an exhortation, the response must be that each member of the church is equally important.

If the theme, "A Church for Everyone," is a challenge, the need is for more churches to be established

to reach the nation for Christ.

If the theme, "A Church for Everyone," is a plea, the sincere Christian will seek to be an active witness to bring the unsaved and unchurched to Christ.

If the theme . . . ? No doubt the theme touches on some of all or more of the suggestions. America needs Christ, and Southern Baptists have an unparalleled opportunity to be used of God to help bring Christ to the people of America — the homeland.

Such an undertaking will take cooperation. America will not soon forget Oct. 16, 1987, at 8 p.m. when 18-month-old Jessica McClure was brought to the surface following 58 hours trapped 22 feet underground in an abandoned well in Midland, Texas. Her rescue came because of unselfish cooperation and willing sacrifice.

Willing sacrifice? The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions will only be met with Southern Baptists getting serious about seeking to save America for Christ. Only sacrificial praying and giving saved

Jessica McClure.

Only sacrificial praying and giving can make a difference in home missions. Southern Baptists are in the home missions business not because some denominational bureaucracy programmed it but because the Lord Jesus Christ commanded it. The Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria of Acts 1:8 might be minimized by some; but the words of Jesus "And you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" must not be ignored.

Such an appeal must be made consistently, and it should be made annually in a special way. Thus, the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

"A Church for Everyone" means home missions, and the theme can only be meaningful when every church and every Southern Baptist participates by praying and giving.

Presnall Wood is editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas.

By James C. Read

## Guest opinion . . . Training the mind and nurturing the spirit

out the task of educating our young people and of receiving our financial support. Our secular state institutions boast of their millions of dollars of state and federal support and their up-to-date classroom buildings and research facilities, a boast which most of our Baptist institutions of higher learning are unable to make.

Maybe we should stop here and ask ourselves what is the real measure of the quality in education. As an educator, with experience in both public and denominational education, I have come to believe that the real measure of quality in education is in the quality of the teacher.

As I look back at the history of Clarke College, the Baptist college with which I am most familiar, I find teachers that exemplify the highest quality, such as Dr. John F. Carter, whose name is practically synonymous with Clarke College. Teachers, such as Dr. Carter, had exemplary spiritual and intellectual qualities.

Today, I find this is still true of the Clarke faculty, which I am sure is typical of the faculties of other Baptist institutions of higher learning. Six of the 12 full-time faculty members hold the earned doctorate from well-known denominational or public institutions of higher learning, with the remainder holding the master's degree or more.

All of them are actively involved in the preaching ministry, the music ministry, or they are active Christian (Continued on page 4)

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## Gulfshore construction, renovation underway

By Frank Simmons  
Gulfshore Manager

The Phase II construction at Gulfshore is underway with the contractor making noticeable progress on the overall project. Construction will continue for the next several months with every effort being made to limit any inconveniences for faculty and guests. A special effort will be made to operate on a normal basis and schedule while the Phase II project is being completed. Some temporary office and classroom space will be utilized. As your conference time approaches, whatever special information you need about the facility will be shared with you.

This summer promises to be an exciting season of fellowship and training, as well as a busy one with the new, modern, and functional facility being built as a part of the Phase II project.

Now is the time of year for churches to be making definite plans for sending people to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Registration for summer events will begin with mail that is postmarked March 1 or later.

Groups or persons wishing to make reservations should send the following information: name and date of conference; whether family, individual, or church group; number of males, females, couples, and children's names and ages; type of accommodations desired (if applicable). Reserva-

tion requests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$30 per person, age two and up, or \$60 per family unit. This deposit applies toward the total conference cost. All reservation requests must be made in writing.

Additional registration information is available in the 1988 programs brochure, which may be obtained by contacting the Gulfshore office (452-7261) or the program director's office in the Baptist Building (968-3800).

Gulfshore programs begin May 17 and continue for the 13 weeks of the summer. Conferences are planned for the whole church family with events designed for children, youth, adults, and senior adults. Some new conferences have been added to the schedule in an effort to reach a wider group of our churches; entitled leadership.

The leadership training events offer special prices for families with children in attendance and also offer wholesome recreational opportunities in addition to the outstanding program personnel. If the past years' registration trends continue, many conferences will be filled early in the season. For this reason, group leaders should make their plans and reservations early. If additional information is needed, contact the Gulfshore office.

## Overseas baptisms top 200,000 for first time

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — For the first time, overseas churches related to Southern Baptist missions have baptized more than 200,000 people in one year.

Baptisms for 1987 totaled 203,824 among nearly 37,000 Baptist churches and mission congregations in 112 countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work.

"It took us 135 years to see the first yearly report of 100,000 baptisms," said R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "We have passed the 200,000 mark after only seven more years." Annual overseas baptisms first surpassed 100,000 in 1981.

Baptisms overseas last year topped the previous year's total by 10 percent, averaging 558 per day.

The ratio of baptisms to overseas

church members was one for every 10.5 members in 1987, compared to 1-to-43.5 among Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

National Baptists and missionaries started 1,070 churches during the year, an average of almost three per day. That brought the overseas church count to 17,769, a 6.4 percent jump over 1986. Mission congregations or preaching points increased by 338 to a total of 18,872.

Overseas Baptist church members grew by about 113,000 to nearly 2.15 million, a 5.6 percent rise, and Sunday school enrollment topped 1.5 million, a 10.1 percent increase.

Meanwhile, the number of national pastors rose by almost 15 percent to 16,680. Even more significant for the future, the number of current and

(Continued on page 9)

## President of WMU, SBC, to speak at BYW banquet

Marjorie McCullough, president of WMU, SBC, will be a featured speaker at the annual BYW banquet at 5:30 p.m. March 14, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Also speaking on the program will be Dottie Williamson, home missionary in Virginia.

The theme for the banquet, which is for all BYW members and prospects, is "Let's Celebrate," emphasizing

the 100th anniversary of the founding of Woman's Missionary Union.

Cost for the banquet is \$5.50 per person, and reservations must be made through the state WMU office before the March 11 deadline. Interested persons may write WMU Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call 968-3800.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Lack of ample funds hampers colleges' work

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Education Commission, meeting at Mississippi College last week, heard a report from the president of William Carey College concerning a "radical pruning of the administration," considered ways to help the colleges communicate better with their publics, and decided to allow the officers of the commission to develop a response to a motion made at the 1987 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Neshoba County Baptist Association requested the commission reconsider the funding formula which decreases administrative funding each year for Clarke College until 1992 when it will get none of the 30 percent of Cooperative Program dollars set aside for college administration.

The commission allowed the chairman, vice chairman, and secretary to draw up a statement to present at the next meeting of the commission, June 30-July 1 at Carey on the Coast. The Education Commission has acted a number of times in the past reaffirming the current funding formula which, by 1991, will treat Clarke College as a branch campus of Mississippi College, which it is, except for funding.

The trustees of Mississippi College are the trustees of Clarke. Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College, told commission members that the college had faced an imminent budget shortfall of \$400,000 for this school year. With no expectation of an increase in enrollment, and a larger than expected commuting student population (which does not contribute to paying for dormitory mortgages) the WCC board

voted to demote two vice presidents, merge their two-year old School of Education back into the College of Arts and Sciences, and reassigned a number of other faculty and staffers.

Noonkester told the Baptist Record the consolidation would save \$150,000 to \$200,000 this year alone. The trustees of Carey had already hiked tuition from \$99 to \$115 per semester hour in December.

Noonkester noted that the two former vice presidents would retain their salaries through the contract year ending in May. All moves went into effect Feb. 1. C.J. Ward, vice president for business affairs, was reassigned as an instructor in the School of Business. Milton Wheeler, vice president for student development, was reassigned as dean of student development and professor of history.

J.V. McCrory remained vice president for academic affairs and Hugh Dickens, who was vice president for development, became administrative vice president, professor of education, and director of the graduate program in education.

Noonkester said these moves place all academic and all non-academic affairs under the control of one person each.

Other organizational moves included making several positions report directly to the president. These include director of development, Joe Moore; director of public relations and alumni affairs, Alice McCardle; director of pre-admissions, Phil Kimbrey; Director of Athletics, Steve Knight; and chaplain, Steve Smith.

Noonkester said a further called meeting of the Carey trustees was to take place today to continue working on the financial picture of the college. He said the reorganization was to "prevent future crises rather than to cure a present one." Education Commission members approved mailing a letter to churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention requesting information on students planning a church-related vocational ministry. This, they said, would improve recruiting capabilities of the three colleges.

Members also asked the chairman, William Stewart of Eupora, to determine exactly how much cash should be expected in the wake of the \$40 million endowment campaign. The consensus of the group was that many Mississippi Baptists believe the \$40 million is in hand. In actuality, the amount in hand has not been announced and a great deal of that money is in such forms as bonds and as life insurance on adults and on children.

The schools made their winter report to the commission. Mississippi College reported 1,669 undergraduate and 622 graduate full time equivalent students (This is the total number of hours signed up for divided by 12.) Clarke reported 100 FTE plus 51 FTEs for MC students at Clarke (These are upperclassmen studying on the Clarke campus.) Blue Mountain College reported 235 FTEs, and Carey, 920 undergraduate and 237 graduate FTEs.

The number of ministerial students (Continued on page 5)

## Retired editor, John J. Hurt, dies

DALLAS (BP) — John J. Hurt, 78, longtime editor of Baptist state newspapers, died Feb. 17 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

Hurt retired in 1977 after a career in secular and Baptist journalism. He was an editor and manager for The Associated Press before committing his skills to Southern Baptist journalism 30 years earlier.

During three decades as a newspaperman in the convention, he was editor first of the oldest and then the largest Baptist state papers, editing Georgia's Christian Index from 1947 to 1966 and Texas' Baptist Standard from 1966 to 1977.

He was the first layman to edit the Index. During his tenure, Hurt changed the publication's format from a

clergy-oriented journal to a news magazine edited for both the laity and ministers. Consequently, he generally is credited with leading Baptist state papers to adopt the news style most of the papers follow today.

The son of a Baptist preacher who nominated six men for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency, Hurt was familiar with the denomination from his earliest years and developed a lasting love for missions and missionaries.

As a committed Southern Baptist and professional journalist, he constantly worked for openness in denominational life. When he was refused entrance to one board meeting, he carried a large blank square on the editorial page with the caption, "This is what the Executive

Committee wants you to know about your business -- NOTHING."

He was a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

He was the first president of the Southern Baptist Public Relations Advisory Committee and was president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Hurt was a deacon and former Sunday school teacher at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, and two sons, John Jeter III, of Newark, Del., and Robert H. of Washington; two brothers, one sister, and two grandchildren.





Alice Davis is this year's recipient of the "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" given during Homecoming activities at William Carey College Feb. 6. Pictured are Miss Davis and Sidney Davis, her brother.

## Carey honors alumnus of year

Alice Davis, 1922 graduate of Mississippi Woman's College, was honored Feb. 6 as "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" during a homecoming luncheon at William Carey College.

Milton Wheeler, dean of student development, paid tribute to Miss Davis for her outstanding career in banking and her commitment to education through the establishment of scholarships at three of Mississippi's institutions of higher learning. Included in these is the Elizabeth Davis O'Neill Memorial Scholarship at

Carey in memory of her sister, a 1932 graduate of Mississippi Woman's College. Wheeler also noted Miss Davis' wit, as evidenced by her membership in the F.U.N. club while in college.

Miss Davis and members of the graduating class of 1938 were later honored at a coffee at the home of President and Mrs. J. Ralph Noonkester.

Miss Davis was the 1977 recipient of the "Outstanding Citizen" award given by the Mendenhall Chamber of Commerce.

## Training the mind

(Continued from page 2)

laity, holding positions of responsibility in their churches.

An even stronger evidence of their exemplary spiritual quality, however, is in the service that I see them perform every day in serving as Christian role models constantly witnessing by word and conduct to the students over whom they have charge.

This is why I believe true quality education can be found in our Baptist colleges and seminaries, because of the exemplary spiritual and intellectual qualities found in their faculties.

That is why I believe these institutions and their faculties are deserving of the trust you place in them to educate our youth and of the financial support you give them so these qualities may be passed on to succeeding generations of Southern Baptists.

James C. Read is dean, Clarke College: a division of Mississippi College.

GRIEVE little, laugh a lot, smile greatly, frown not, care much . . . and LOVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART. — Tex McPherson

## Book reviews

**THE OPERATIVE** by Jerry B. Jenkins (Harper and Row, \$15.95, 303 pp.) This new book by Jerry Jenkins, vice president for publishing at Moody Bible Institute, is a novel about international espionage. It's one of those fast-moving books so full of suspense that once the reader starts he'll find it almost impossible to stop.

Jordan Kettering, National Security Agency career operative, learns that Russian MIG fighter planes have been shipped into the U.S. through a radar gap and are hangared in Alabama. Next day his informant and his wife are killed. From there on, the

action builds. Kettering meets the beauty with whom he was in love 20 years before. Now he doesn't know if she is friend or foe. And not until the climax does he know for sure just who is friend and who is foe.

The thing that is different about this spy story is that Jordan Kettering is a Christian, and calls on his Christian faith for strength to get through the times of danger. The character of Jordan's uncle, the man who had a great deal of influence on his spiritual life, is especially well drawn. Recommended for those who like to read such thrillers. — AWM

# Missouri pastor sets up coalition for inerrancy

By Trennis Henderson

BELTON, Mo. (BP) — Insisting that "the stakes are high in this battle," Missouri Baptist pastor David Baker has initiated the formation of the "Southern Baptist Coalition for Biblical Inerrancy."

Baker, pastor of First Church here, wrote in the Jan. 20 issue of his church newsletter that he was seeking 50 men in his congregation to each contribute \$50 a year to the organization "until the battle is won." Baker added that "my prayer is that we will be able to enlist 1,000 people in the coalition by April, representing 250 conservative churches."

Baker's actions follow his announcement last July that he was disbanding the "Missouri Inerrancy Fellowship," which he served as president at the time. Baker said in July that the Inerrancy Fellowship being disbanded was a direct response to the SBC Peace Committee's request that "all political factions . . . discontinue the

organized political activity in which they are now engaged."

At the time, Baker told *Word & Way*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, "We do not want to be part of the problem . . . Now, we want to let the conservative shift take its course. We do not want to force the issue."

Describing the need for his current actions, however, Baker wrote in his Jan. 27 newsletter, "The moderate/liberal group has significantly intensified political efforts to 'take back' convention agencies and institutions . . . I had hoped to move away from 'political' meetings, but it seems that this battle must be fought consistently." Baker said the newsletter was mailed "to every church in the Missouri Baptist Convention, as well as to churches in Kansas and Nebraska."

The Missouri pastor cited "the need to inform Missouri Baptists" as one

reason for his new political organization. While insisting that "it is not my intention to attack (Word & Way editor) Bob Terry," Baker charged that Terry's "editorial approach . . . has often been inflammatory and at times misleading."

Baker announced plans for a "Rally for Biblical Inerrancy" March 24 at First Church, Belton. Among scheduled speakers are John Click, pastor of Immanuel Church, Wichita, Kan.; Gerald Davidson, pastor of First Church, Arnold, Mo.; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; David Lucas, pastor of First Church, Oak Hill, Austin, Texas; and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas.

The rally will focus on the theme, "A Baptist and His Bible!" It will be followed on March 25 by a breakfast meeting featuring a panel discussion by fundamental-conservative leaders.

Trennis Henderson is associate editor of the *Word and Way*.

## Trustees like Honeycutt's pledge

By David Wilkinson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary's trustee executive committee has approved unanimously a recommendation affirming the seminary president's commitment to implement Recommendation V of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee report.

The recommendation came from an ad hoc committee appointed last fall to study the trustees' response to Recommendation V of the Peace Committee report approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis last June.

That recommendation was addressed specifically to the convention's six seminaries.

The trustee recommendation, passed during the group's February meeting, noted seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt has pledged "his diligent efforts to implement the contents of Recommendation V with regard to the employment and future service of administrative staff and

faculty."

Honeycutt, it added, has expressed his intention "to commend persons whose commitments are consistent with specifications defined within Recommendation V . . . and who manifest the spirit of cooperation within the diversity among Southern Baptists as recognized and affirmed by Recommendation V."

The recommendation pointed out Honeycutt's stated commitment "to stand by" the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, the six seminary presidents' "Glorieta Statement" expressing their commitment to work toward reconciliation in the denomination, and the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's governing declaration of faith.

The executive committee also authorized Honeycutt "to proceed to determine the positions of the executive staff and faculty members with regard to Recommendation V of the Peace Committee Report" and to

present a progress report at the executive committee's meeting in April.

Recommendation V of the Peace Committee report asked "that trustees determine the theological positions" of seminary administrators and faculty members "in order to guide them in renewing their determination to stand by" the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, the Glorieta Statement and the seminaries' respective institutional declarations of faith "as the guidelines by which they will teach their students."

The recommendation added: "The Bible is a book of redemption, not a book of science, psychology, sociology, or economics. But, where the Bible speaks, the Bible speaks truth in all realms of reality and to all fields of knowledge. The Bible, when properly interpreted, is authoritative to all of life."

David Wilkinson writes for Southern Seminary.

## 'Nominate more women,' FMB asks

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A resolution urging nomination of more women as trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board won approval by about a 2-to-1 margin at the board's Feb. 10 trustee meeting. Some trustees did not vote.

The motion, introduced by Harrell Cushing of Gadsden, Ala., encouraged the Committee on Nominations "to actively seek qualified, missions-minded women" among nominees it will present at the 1988 annual meeting and also in subsequent years.

Cushing's motion said "normal attrition and lack of women nominated"

has reduced to nine the number of women serving on the 85-member board. Three of these will complete their terms in June, with a fourth eligible for nomination to a customary second four-year term.

Last May, trustees approved a motion expressing regret that no women were slated for nomination for election to the board at the 1987 convention and asked the convention's Executive Committee to "note this inequity in future years" and address it.

Statistics show WMU-sponsored home and foreign missions offerings in Southern Baptist churches have

raised more than \$1 billion during the past century.

During the three-day meeting, the board appointed 11 new missionaries and reappointed six. One reappointed couple will live in Germany and work with Turkish people.

Trustees also authorized \$1.5 million in additions at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center at Rockville, Va., about 20 miles outside Richmond. Most of the funds already are in hand from special gifts. The expansion is part of a master plan that will enable the center to eliminate overcrowding that has resulted from a doubling of use since 1985.

Bob Stanley writes for the FMB.



# Baptist Men affirm Music Conference will meet in Vicksburg Cox appointment

By Jim Burton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptist Men's executive committee affirmed the appointment of Mississippian Larry Cox as NFBM interim director Feb. 13.

Cox, who has been the fellowship's associate director since last summer, will be presented to the NFBM general council for consideration as NFBM director. The council will be polled by James H. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and NFBM President Norman Wiggins.

The general council elects the director in consultation with the Brotherhood Commission.

Cox is a former foreign missionary whose commitment to missions is but one asset necessary to lead the fellowship, said Wiggins, president of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.

"I think the thing that impresses me most about Larry is he is willing to ask other people to help him," Wiggins explained. "You can do a lot on your own, but you can do a whole lot more if you get other people to join you. Cox was named interim director in January by Douglas Beggs, director of the Brotherhood Commission's adult division. Cox replaced Ed Bullock, who was the fellowship's first

director from February 1986 to Jan. 4, 1988.

Cox joined the Brotherhood Commission last summer after working for more than 11 years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as an agricultural missionary in Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast. In Burkina Faso, he utilized about 650 missions volunteers.

During their February meeting, the NFBM executive committee approved this year's budget, authorized a review of the bylaws and approved three national coordinators.

The committee approved a maintenance budget of \$58,500 through December 1988. The Brotherhood Commission will guarantee funding for staff salaries and office maintenance through September while the fellowship seeks to erase a \$32,000 deficit. Wiggins appointed Cox to head a committee to bring bylaw revision recommendations to the general council which meets June 3-4 in Memphis, Tenn.

New fellowship coordinators are Michael Richardson of Seminole, Fla.; Sam Haskins of Nashville; and Robert Adams of Waco, Texas.

Jim Burton writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

## Choirs of BMC to go on tour

The Blue Mountain College Department of Music announces the spring choral tour for 1988. The choirs of BMC will be on tour March 6-10. The tour will begin at Southaven's Colonial Hills Church on Sunday morning, followed by a concert at First Church, Booneville, that evening. On Monday evening, the groups will perform at Hillcrest Church, Jackson.

Tuesday's performances will include a stop at Copiah-Lincoln College in Wesson. On Wednesday the groups will perform for chapel services at New Orleans Seminary and give a

concert at Oakpark Baptist Church.

The tour concludes on Thursday afternoon with an appearance at the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, which is being held at First Church, Vicksburg.

The group is under the direction of David R. Gilmore, assistant professor of music, and is accompanied by Terry McRoberts, assistant professor of music. They will perform selections by Brahms, Faure, Marshall, Offenbach, diLasso, Barber, Dawson, and others.

## Lack of ample fund . . .

(Continued from page 3)  
totaled 97 FTEs at MC, 26 at Clarke (including preaching, religious education, and music), 18 in the MC at Clarke program, 68 estimated at Carey, and 47 at BMC.

Hardy Denham Jr., president of the Mississippi Baptist Board of Ministerial Education, noted a drop from 347 church related vocations stu-

dent in the spring of 1987, to the 270 of the current spring semester. In the sub category of those planning on entering the preaching ministry, the total dropped from 150 to 129 in one year.

The Board of Ministerial Education is giving aid to 72 students; 25 are receiving \$85 monthly, 37 are receiving \$75 monthly, and 10 are receiving \$65 monthly. The rate is based on need, family situation, and grade point average.

Denham noted that beginning this fall, all church-related vocational ministry students will be eligible for financial aid. He said that new guidelines will be drawn up now that the ordained or licensed ruling is no longer in effect. Previously, only students licensed or ordained could receive funds.

Bruce Leafblad, associate professor of church music and worship, Southwestern Seminary, will lead the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, March 10-11, at First Church, Vicksburg.

Leafblad will lead several sessions on the aspects of worship, will direct a worship service, and chair a

pastor/minister of music panel discussion.

The program will also include a banquet, organist seminar, educators' roundtable, and concerts by The Singing Churchmen and the Blue Mountain College Choir. The conference will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday and con-

clude at Friday noon.

With the emphasis on worship, a concentrated effort is being made to involve pastors in this year's conference.

For more information, contact Dot Pray, Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call (601) 968-3800.

## Reports of USSR church strength are conflicting

USSR, Kiev — An article in a Soviet magazine, "Ukraina" has raised questions about the number of churches in the Soviet Union. The Ukraine-based publication claims there are about 20,000 state-registered churches in the USSR.

The magazine claimed that the Russian Orthodox Church has 8,500 parishes, 1,120 Roman Catholic and 690 Lutheran parishes. The number of state-registered Evangelical churches is given as "over 2,000." No figures were given for the reformed churches.

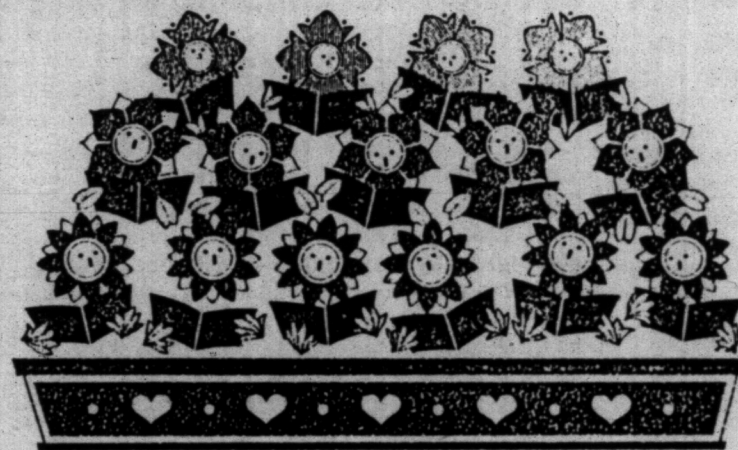
No mention was made of the unregistered Pentecostal and Baptist congregations.

Observers noted that the figures quoted by the magazine differ sharply from those published by Christian institutions.

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**KEEP  
MISSISSIPPI  
CLEAN**



# Ministries will continue after Olympics

By Leisa Hammett-Goad

CALGARY, Alberta (BP) — Biting temperatures, complete with snow and gusty winds, cannot quell the excitement as people from around the globe meet here for the 1988 Winter Olympics.

For athletes and their sideline spectators, it is the opportunity of a lifetime. For Southern Baptists, it is another opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

The 15th winter games are the third Olympics held in North America where Southern Baptists, through the denomination's Home Mission Board, have had an organized presence.

In Calgary, about two dozen missionaries and volunteers from the United States joined Canadian Southern Baptists to form Winter Games Ministries.

But unlike their previous Olympic ministries, Southern Baptists in Canada have concentrated more on the months preceding and following the games rather than just the two weeks of Olympic competition.

Several of the ministries begun prior to the international event will continue after the winter games, said Bill Lee, assistant director of the Home Mission Board's special mission ministries department.

Resort missionaries Bill and Cindy Black of Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Debbie Wohler of Lake Tahoe, Calif., held slope-side worship services at Sunshine Valley, a ski resort north of Calgary. The missionaries also began Bible studies with resort employees and provided day care.

Tom Eggleston, creative arts consultant for Southern Baptists, conducted a clowning ministry for skiers. Brad Goad, a two-year missionary based in Calgary, will continue the effort begun by the Blacks, Wohler, and Eggleston.

When Goad returns to the United States in late summer, he hopes Canadian Southern Baptists will continue the ski ministry.

Two-year missionary Fran Cook and other Winter Games Ministries coordinators believe if the resort ministry is successful, it could be the site of a new Southern Baptist church. Members of Bow Valley Baptist Church also are using the Olympics as a catalyst and will survey a community for a prospective new church.

Four years ago, Calgary pastor Jim

Wallace realized the need to reach beyond church walls. Wallace, a lifelong Southern Baptist from Kentucky, said he had heard Southern Baptists preach missions and evangelism since kindergarten "but it dawned on me that for two weeks God was sending the world to Calgary."

Wallace worked with the Home Mission Board to form Winter Games Ministries and bring a missionary team, including two-year missionary Linda Hokit, to direct the ministry. Hokit previously helped oversee Baptist ministries at the Vancouver 1986 World's Fair.

To assist with local evangelistic efforts, Wallace became secretary of the Evangelical Outreach Committee, which produced the Christian tabloid distributed by Wallace's church and

other ecumenical churches.

Members also have formed witnessing teams to mingle among crowds gathered at Winter Games Ministries performances.

Three Baptist creative arts teams are performing during the Olympics in shopping malls, parks, on outdoor stages, in churches, hospitals, and convalescent homes throughout Calgary and surrounding towns.

Other ministries include: Cambrian Heights Baptist Church began an ongoing daycare ministry shortly before the Olympic kickoff; and Wallace's church, Faith Baptist, plans to take its evangelism teams to Calgary's summer rodeos.

Leisa Hammett-Goad writes for the HMB.

## The times of John F. Carter . . .

By Nell Carter Brantum

February 10 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Franklin Carter, one of Mississippi's best-loved pastors and teachers.

He was born in Cherry Creek, Miss., and was the fifth generation to be named John Carter. His father, a teacher, had moved his young wife from Indiana to Cherry Creek earlier because of her health. When little John was two, however, his mother's health failed again, and she died. In a few years his father married another beautiful Christian woman, who became "momma" to John in every way. This marriage produced three more boys and five girls.

In 1904 the family moved to Blue Mountain. Four of the children were enrolled in the one-teacher school, and their father became the one teacher. Young John was enrolled in the newly-formed Mississippi Heights Academy, from which he graduated in 1907. Even as a teenager, John was known for his love of books, especially the Bible.

While in high school, John was called to the ministry. He paid his way through Mississippi College by firing a furnace. He spent many summertime hours preaching and organizing Sunday Schools in rural communities.

After graduation, John became a school teacher, earning money so he could attend seminary. While he was teaching at Mantee, a young high school student caught his eye. When offered the principalship of the school, John declined, thinking it inappropriate for the principal to court a student. He accepted a teaching position at Woodland, however, which was three miles away; and his courtship with Mattie George flourished. They were married Sept. 7, 1916, in Mattie's home, then left the ceremony to board the train bound for Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"His dear Mattie" was to be the light of his life for 63 years. Her role as helper, wife, and mother of their two sons have served as a worthy model for hundreds of ministerial student families through the years.

Later degrees included one from Mercer University, a doctorate of theology from Southwestern Seminary, and a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Dubuque, in Iowa. By 1920 he had found his way to Clarke College in Newton, a place that would claim his heart for many years.

During the mid-1920's Dr. Carter taught at Tift College, Carson-Newman College, and Mercer University, but he returned to Clarke in 1927.

The early 1930's brought hard financial times to Clarke. The Mississippi Baptist Convention decided to withdraw its support and close the college. Dr. Carter, however, serving as Clarke's president at the time, decided with others to operate the school without support. Dr. Carter and the Board of Trustees leased the school from the convention for \$1 a year. No one received a regular salary but simply divided up whatever money was left over at the end of the month. Farming supplemented the meager wages. Clarke never closed its doors and so weathered the storm that had

engulfed the world.

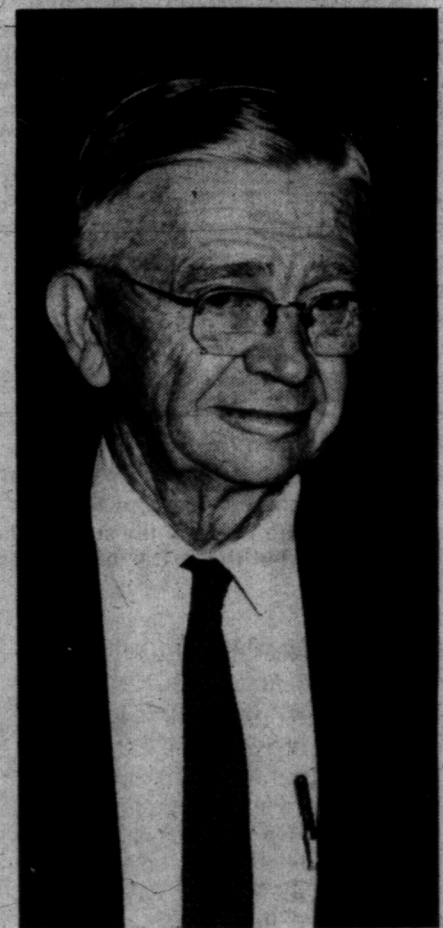
After the crisis, Dr. Carter left Clarke to be a pastor. He returned to the Clarke faculty briefly in 1935, but again left for a pastorate in Cordova, Tenn. in 1938. During this time he also served as associational missionary for Winston County, Tenn.

In 1946, Dr. Carter became dean of the Clear Creek Bible School in Clear Creek, Kentucky. In 1950, however, he returned again to Clarke College, where he remained until his retirement in 1977 at the age of 89. In his years at Clarke he served as Bible professor, dean, registrar, and president and touched the lives of countless ministerial students and other Clarke students.

In 1961, Broadman Press published his *A Layman's Harmony of the Gospels*, a valuable help still used by Bible students. He authored *A Layman's Manual of Christian Doctrines* in 1972 and numerous other pamphlets and books.

Dr. Carter is credited with starting

(Continued on page 10)



John F. Carter

## SCRAPBOOK

### One magical day

One magical day  
You stepped into my life  
You made me realize  
That getting the most  
Out of life is important.

One magical day  
You showed up  
And made me see the light.  
I've got to live my life  
The way I think is right.

One magical day  
You came into my life.  
You made me see  
That friends are  
The most important ingredients  
A person can have in life.

One magical day  
You showed me what  
Life is all about.

—Carrie Ann Taylor  
Charleston



Carrie Ann Taylor, 18, senior at Strider Academy, Charleston, received Honorable Mention on her poem, "One Magical Day." She attends Friendship Church, Charleston, J. G. Thomas, pastor.

### The Lord still cares for me

I may not sing like the heavenly angels,  
I may not play precisely on key,  
I may not preach like the prophets of old,  
But the Lord still cares for me.

I may not walk the straight and narrow way,  
I may not smile for every one to see,  
I may not pray each and every single day,  
But the Lord still cares for me.

I may not visit as you'd have me to,  
I may not witness here and there,  
I may not teach you just what to do,  
But I know that the Lord'll still care.

REFRAIN:

The Lord still cares for me,  
The Lord still cares for me,  
Although I feel sad and the times get bad,  
I know the Lord still cares for me.

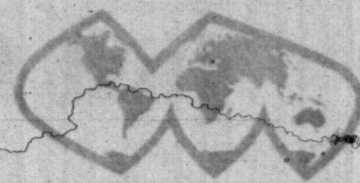
—Rebecca Albritton, Shubuta





## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams



# Three more Bibles: only a drop in the bucket

Memory Tours gave us each a small packet when we left Hong Kong for Canton. Instructions said, "Please remember to wear the tour badge." A "contact list" of "ground operators" was enclosed "for emergency use."

The Every Home for Christ organization does not have an office or base of operations for distribution of Bibles and Christian literature within mainland China. However, Timothy Yeung, director of Every Home for Christ in Hong Kong, had said that though he cannot send shipments of Bibles into China, the HK headquarters is constantly sending Bibles into China by individuals who take them to family or friends.

Though I certainly am not an authority on the subject, I hear that the gap between the number of Christian believers and the number of Bibles available in China grows wider daily. Though the Amity Foundation

and the United Bible Societies are providing equipment and printing Bibles, there's still a shortage, because of the huge population, for one thing.

Some estimates say there might be 50 million Christian believers in China — nobody knows for sure how many, I'm sure. Some say not that many. Some say more. And since years went by after many Bibles and other books were destroyed in the Cultural Revolution, it just takes time to catch up, even though Christians are allowed now to worship freely. Then, too, if most of the newly printed Bibles are sold to the Three-Self churches, that leaves many worshippers, in house churches, as well as new believers everywhere, without Bibles.

At any rate, Mr. Yeung said that friends and relatives of his representatives are always asking for more Bibles. he keeps sending them whenever possible.

My friend, Joan Peterson, had been given two Mandarin Bibles by an American Bible Society representative in Florida, Garry Sentz. And I decided to take the Gideon Bible (printed in Mandarin and English), a paperback, which I found in my New World Hotel room in Hong Kong. It was stamped with some message like "You may take me with you."

I read an article by a college student who had at various times taken many Bibles into China and Tibet. He said there was no danger in this — "no prison, no torture, no fine!" Once, when some of the Bibles in his suitcase were located by customs officials, the officials simply took them from him and sent him on his way.

Since we were entering China for only a two-day stay, we had left our large bags in Hong Kong and carried only small overnight bags. When we arrived, passports of our group were

numbered, 1 to 7, and we had to line up in that order to walk through customs. Officials gave a brief look at the passports, and the guide, a young Chinese man representing Memory Tours, said, "Come on, hurry!" and escorted us to a waiting bus. I can't even remember seeing a place where anyone was checking baggage at all.

An afternoon tour included an ancestral temple, first built during the Song Dynasty (1078-1085 A.D.) Originally it was a hall for worshipping ancestors, used by workers of the smelting trade. But that was destroyed by fire and it was rebuilt during the Ming Dynasty and converted into a Taoist temple. It is decorated with all kinds of sculptures and carvings — of wood, brick, bronze, pottery, and stone. On the ridge of the main hall roof alone, 152 pottery figurines with different facial expressions are mounted. Inside the

various courtyards, gardens have been built. But the temple is now a museum, displaying objects of jade, ivory and other antiquities. I don't know why, but I had not thought of the fact that Taoist and Buddhist temples, as well as Christian churches, had been closed during the Cultural Revolution and used for other purposes such as museums and factories.

One guide told Joan and me that he constantly, through his work, meets Christian tourists and that they have given him stacks of Bibles.

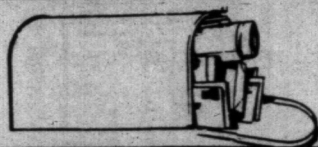
"Could you use three more?" Joan asked.

"Yes."

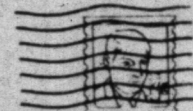
"What would you do with them?"

"Give them to someone in a far-away village."

When she gave them to him, he sat reading one on the bus for the next hour or two.



## Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

### Miss Alma's ministry

Editor:

I read in the Baptist Record of Feb. 11 of the homegoing of Mrs. Alma Pittman of Winona. Miss Alma, as many of us called her, was a unique person, a quite, persistent servant of the Lord. Many people knew where she lived on Highway 51 South in Winona, next door to the Wal-Mart Store. And many knew she raised flower bulbs for sale which she shipped to many customers in various places. What some may not have known was the money she earned from her flower bulb sale went to the Lord's work. Alma Pittman gave financial aid and assistance to many people and causes for the Lord.

I know this from personal experience. In October 1983 I became the Baptist Student Union director at Holmes Junior College at Goodman. During the course of my work I spoke to many Baptist Associations and churches about our need for a BSU center, funds to operate with, and the overall importance of reaching college students not only with the gospel message but also with the message of missions. On one occasion I spoke to the annual Montgomery County Baptist Association meeting at which Miss Alma was present.

I believed in what I was doing and spoke convincingly of those needs in the BSU work. A few days later I received a check from Miss Alma which was the largest donation made by an individual during my tenure. I believe she sent not only her money but also her prayers for the Lord's work and workers.

It is because of people like her that

there is a BSU center at Holmes Junior College today and a BSU director who is free of other responsibilities and able to give full-time to a very important ministry.

Alma Pittman was a quite person who went about doing good without fanfare. Truly, there is no limit to what God can do through us if we aren't worried about who is going to get the credit.

James S. Allen  
Jackson

### A. S. Carl's Birthday

Editor:

On Feb. 11, the 101st birthday of Woodland Hills Baptist Church's revered senior-most member, Mr. A. S. Carl, quietly came and passed by. Last year, his 100th birthday was recognized in a church celebration and in press coverage. I would like to offer some tribute thoughts, as gracious Mr. Carl begins "bucking for 102."

Mr. Carl is my ideal Christian, citizen, career man, and family man. His 47 years with the telephone company demonstrates stick-to-it-iveness that few achieve. He was a devoted husband, and the accomplishments of his progeny serve as living monuments to his success in parenting. At 101 years of age, he continues to be faithful in involvement in his beloved church.

The achievement of the 101st birthday of this kindly and unobtrusive gentleman generates, for me, an interest in centenarians as a group. I recall and ponder the one other centerarian I have known more than casually and relatives and acquaint-

ances who are within striking distance of their 100th birthday.

I perceive that, as a group, those in this number are calm and gentle in spirit and appear to be at peace with themselves and with their fellow men. They characteristically have established a satisfactory relationship with their God... feeling comfortable in the hands of a loving heavenly Father, who is granting long life for a good purpose before gently calling them home. In the case of Mr. A. S. Carl, there exists captivating hobbies. Perhaps pursuing hobbies is a group characteristic. He experiments with electronic equipment and dabbles in the stock market.

If the traits suggested above do, indeed, characterize those who attain the milestone in years that Mr. Carl has attained, then my desire to emulate A. S. Carl; and my admonition to Baptist Record readers to do the same is logical and sound. And it is the appropriateness of this admonition that is my tribute to Mr. Carl in his 101st year.

Jimmy Cotten  
Jackson

### Scrap Book commended

Editor:

I really enjoy getting the Baptist Record, and I think the Scrap Book Page is just wonderful with all of those pretty poems in it. I have been writing poems since 1948. I believe I wrote my first one in 1947, "The Stranger in the Rain."

Then in 1948 our oldest son joined the Navy, and I wrote "Mother's Advice." So off and on I have been writing poems and gospel hymns ever since I had two of my songs put on a record — "I Know How Great Thou Art" and "Walk with Me." I also got the sheet music to them and copyright.

But on Dec. 20, 1985, our house burn-

ed to the ground. The only thing we saved out of that fire were an iron bed and my songs. They were in a notebook. The wire and top and back were burned off of the notebook and left my songs and some poems. They were burned around the edges, leaving the title and the song so that I could recopy.

The good Lord really blessed me there, for I am too old to remember how to rewrite them all. It was a miracle that my songs were saved in that notebook. It burned everything we had up to our car. It just left us with our clothes on our backs and those songs and the iron bedstead.

Mrs. Emerson Smith  
Brookhaven

### Success and failure

Editor:

I was definitely disappointed in the articles and statements of Jim Lowry and Joe McKeever concerning the "Terminated Minister" in the January issue of "Facts and Trends."

They missed the boat entirely when they referred to terminated ministers as "failures" and "sinners." It is true that some of them are sinners and some are failures; however, the majority are really not failures and are no more sinners than their so called successful neighbors.

Jeremiah, Paul, and Peter along with dozens of others of the Bible would have been terminated ministers from a Southern Baptist church. No one of us considers them as failures or sinners simply because the masses rejected them. A minister of the Gospel is never a failure or a sinner when he faithfully preaches God's Word with love in his heart. Preaching the Word of God might have been the reason he was terminated.

I am convinced that there would be more terminations if men fearlessly preached God's Word against sin and

for righteousness as was the case with Nathan when he said to David, "Thou art the man." Most of these men were not terminated by God but by so called "Great Christians." Sometimes a minister experiences success as a direct result of "the failure," standing with courage and conviction to correct a problem that had previously stood in the way of progress. A man who tempers the message to keep from offending his constituents is not worthy of the high calling of God.

I experienced termination midway in my ministry. This leads me to say that I have had enough successes to thrill me for a lifetime. I have also had enough failures to be able to cry with one who is heartbroken. The great part is that I have lived long enough to realize that my greatest "successes" were my ministry in mediocrity and my so called "failures" represent my ministry at its peak.

Allen O. Webb  
Pascagoula

### The Amen corner

Editor:

There are many religions today which have members who pray on television church shows when one ends a prayer by saying, "in Jesus' name," and leaves off "Amen." In Rev. 3:14 Amen is the Lord's name! And it should be used always.

Also AMEN means steadfast, firm. At the beginning of a sentence the word is rendered "verily" and in John's gospel is redoubled, "verily, verily." It signifies "So let it be." When the people bound themselves with an oath they said, "Amen." Read Col. 1:10-22.

I do believe churches are a long way from the Amen corner where men used to say Amen when the preacher was preaching.

Mrs. Toy E. Hegwood  
Flowood



# Just for the Record



First Church, Boyle, recently held an Acteen Coronation service. Pictured, left to right, are Queen Toni Price with crown bearer, Thomas Gilliland; Queen Regent Kenna McClafflin with Cape Bearer, Ryanne Godbold; Queen Leigh Coghlan with Crown Bearer, Joshua Hill; Queen with Scepter Machel Pinkston with Scepter Bearer, Sydney Melton; Queen Regent Rhonda Hopper with Cape Bearer, Wren Chennault.



GAs honored at a recent service at First Church, Boyle, are pictured, seated in front, Melanie Labella; standing, left to right, Memorie McCreary, Amy Chennault and Lori Barnett.



The congregation of North Winona Church, Winona, under the leadership of Frank Bishop met early for Sunday School and morning worship on Dec. 20 in order to dedicate their newly constructed concrete parking lot. A special offering was started in October, 1986 and enough donations had been received to finance the parking lot, pay the bill in full and not effect the budget. This was a day to celebrate for North Winona church.

Mississippi College Music Department will present the College Wind Ensemble in concert on Mon., March 7, at 7 p.m. in Swor Auditorium.

The concert will include selections from composers Beethoven, Vaughn Williams, and Percy Granger. The ensemble, under the direction of John Hanbery, is made up of students representing various majors.

First Church, Madison is the site for the 1988 Area Quartet Sing on Saturday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. til 12:30 p.m. The Area Quartet Sings previously scheduled at North Oxford Church and at Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, have been canceled.

Quartets placing first and second in an associational quartet sing are invited to participate. Those in associations not planning an associational quartet sing, may wish to participate in a neighboring association's quartet sing.

Registrations will be accepted no later than March 1. Contact the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for more information.

## Names in the news



been pastor of the Jericho Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Baldwin, Miss. since February 1986 while on leave of absence from the Foreign Mission Board. Their address is Route 2, Box 106, Guntown, MS 38849.

Edgar Allen Lott, father of Dot Lott, missionary to Brazil, died Feb. 7. She is a native of Sumrall, Miss. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964, she may be addressed at C. P. 35, 74000 Goiana, GO, Brazil.

Clinton — The Mississippi College Trustees have approved the appointment of Lisa Eichelberger, former

assistant nursing dean at Auburn University, as dean of the Mississippi College School of Nursing. She began her duties with the start of the present semester.

Eichelberger She holds the bachelor, master's, and doctorate degrees in nursing from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.



Deacons of Good Hope Church (Leake Co.) on Jan. 3 presented Odell Tebo a Bible as a gift for his five years as pastor.

Mary Alice Ditsworth, missionary to Indonesia, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: J1. Hegarmanah 77, Bandung 40141). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Lucedale and grew up in Pascagoula.

Tom and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Kotak Pos 118, Kupang 85111, N.T.T., Indonesia). He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton, Miss. She is the former Hazel Clarke of Richton.

## Churches adopt Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Jan. 21 issue of the Baptist Record: Alcorn: Kossuth; Calhoun: Bethany; Carroll/Montgomery: Providence, Shiloh; Choctaw: Fentress; Franklin: FBC Bude; George/Greene: Cedar Grove, FBC Leakesville; Gulfcoast: Primera Iglesia, Trinity; Hinds-Madison: Forest Hill; Humphreys: Calvary; Jackson: Hurley, Woodhaven; Jones: New Hope, Sandersville; Lafayette: Harmontown, North Oxford; Lamar: FBC Lumberton; Lebanon: FBC Glendale; Lowndes: New Salem; Mississippi: Centerville, Gillsburg; Newton: Rock Branch; Northwest: Cedar View, FBC Coldwater, Strayhorn; Panola: Courtland; Smith: Leaf River; Sunflower: Second; Warren: Highland.

## Hinds-Madison will sponsor cook-off

Hinds-Madison Baptist Association will sponsor the 1988 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff, at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Feb. 27, 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

There will be games, eating and entertainment by the Vernon Brothers Blue Grass Band. Awards will be given as well as a devotion by Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church

and president of Mississippi Baptist Convention. The cost is \$3.00 per person. For more information, contact Hinds-Madison Association, 362-8676.

Each church needs to take more than one pot of chili, one pot will be used for judging plus you will need enough to feed the singles from your church who attend.

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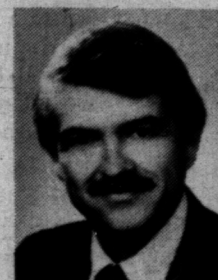
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Thursday, February 25, 1988

## Bush will deliver Tharp lectures

Russell Bush, pastor of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will be the guest speaker for the annual James H. Tharp Lectures at 10 a.m., March 1-4, at New Orleans Seminary.

The Tharp lectures were established in 1926 to be preached on the general subject "The preacher from the Layman's Viewpoint."

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## First, Hickory Flat, dedicates building

First Church, Hickory Flat, dedicated its new building on Dec. 6, 1987 with 317 present. The old church building burned August 1986. R. J. Bostick is pastor.

## Yellowstone College elects Mississippian as vice-pres.

Yellowstone Baptist College, Billings, Montana, has elected Mike Perry, vice-president of academic affairs. Perry is a Mission Service Corps tentmaker/volunteer commissioned by Emmanuel Church, Grenada, Mississippi. He presently works as a guidance counselor at public schools in Billings. He has a master's degree from Delta State University. Before moving to Montana he taught seventh grade life science at Grenada Junior High School.

He is married to the former Jean Smith of Grenada and they are the parents of one daughter, Michelle, a student at William Carey College. Formerly members of Emmanuel, Grenada, the Perrys are presently members of Pyramid Baptist Church in Billings which was constituted on Jan. 3, 1988. He teaches the adult Sunday School class.

Yellowstone Baptist College is a four year college owned and operated by the Montana Southern Baptist

Fellowship. It is the only Southern Baptist school in the Northwest.

The Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship voted Feb. 8 to accept Yellowstone Baptist College as an agency of the state fellowship. Yellowstone is the only educational institution to enter into sponsoring relationship with a Baptist state convention or fellowship since 1964.

The college will benefit from the state fellowship's decision to grant it agency status, Yellowstone president Jack Coward said: "It gives us wider acceptance with the churches. We can now say we belong to all the churches in the state, rather than one association."

Seventy-five percent of the 37 students enrolled are from Montana, Coward said. The low number of students is the one remaining stumbling block toward accreditation, he said, expressing optimism that enrollment will now, because of this new status, reach 65 by the fall semester.

# Samford to start divinity school

By William A. Nunnally  
and Marv Knox

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Samford University will open the Southern Baptist Convention's first university-based divinity school on its campus here this fall.

The new school, which will offer a master of divinity degree, has been endowed by a gift designated for that purpose, Samford President Thomas E. Cofts announced Feb. 11.

The gift was made by an anonymous donor who stipulated the amount of the gift not to be revealed. However, Samford officials acknowledged the gift was the largest contribution from a living individual in Samford history, placing the amount at more than \$3.5 million.

Seven Southern Baptist universities, including Samford, have schools of religion or graduate schools of theology that offer graduate degrees

in religion. The six Southern Baptist Convention-related seminaries offer the master of divinity degree as their primary pastoral ministry degree. But Samford is the first Southern Baptist affiliated university to offer the master of divinity.

Samford's move to a divinity school is unrelated to theological/political controversy that has existed in the Southern Baptist Convention for about nine years, said Samford Provost William E. Hull. "We are not attempting to positionize ourselves in relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention," Hull said. "There has been no consultation (with SBC moderates). There has been no relation to the SBC controversy."

William A. Nunnally is director of Samford's office of information services. Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## Revival dates

Pelahatchie, Pelahatchie: Feb. 28-Mar. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, pastor of Lowrey Memorial, Blue Mountain, evangelist; Graham Smith, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, music; Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

Trinity, 4929 Southern Avenue, Biloxi: Feb. 28 - March 2; Eddie Davidson, pastor; Belaire, Gulfport, evangelist; Ray Duplessie, Jr., music; C. H. Stone, Jr., pastor.

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# Overseas baptisms top 200,000 for first time

(Continued from page 3)

potential Baptist leaders participating in some type of theological training soared by 40 percent to nearly 29,000.

Various Baptist conventions around the world also supported 179 of their own foreign missionaries in 37 countries, as well as 743 home missionaries.

Overseas church members gave nearly \$94 million dollars in offerings for the ministries of their churches and conventions in 1987, about nine percent more than the previous year.

Southern Baptists sent 407 new missionaries abroad last year, down slightly from the 1986 total of 411. The net gain for the year was 83.

Southern Baptist volunteers abroad numbered 7,618, a 22 percent increase. Southern Baptists also contributed almost \$8 million to hunger and relief projects. Medical missionaries and

workers treated more than 1.5 million patients, and 150,000 adults and children received ministry from Baptist community centers.

Through media, missionaries and national Baptists reached an estimated audience of 250 million people via more than 22,000 hours of television and radio broadcasting. They distributed 10.6 million Christian periodicals, 5.6 million books, 19.6 million tracts and more than 80,000 video or audio cassettes.

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.

"Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression."

— HAIM GINOTT

"About the only thing ever lost by politeness is a seat on a crowded bus."

— THE IRISH DIGEST



# Staff changes

Harold (Hal) T. Kitchings, Jr. has accepted a call as minister of students at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. Since 1986 he has been minister of youth and activities at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson. He and his wife, the former Kellie Diane Vaughn, have a year-old son, Harold (Trey) T. Kitchings III. Kitchings is a graduate of Clinton High School, Mississippi College, and Southwestern Seminary. While he was in seminary, he was college minister at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas. Ordained by First Church, Clinton, in 1982, he is son of the late Harold Kitchings, who was executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, and Mrs. Ann Kitchings of Clinton.

Mike Snowden, minister of music at Bayou View Church, Gulf Coast, has resigned. The church has called Charles Red as interim.



VanLandingham

Jeff VanLandingham was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church, Mathiston, Jan. 3. He is the son of Jimmy and Della VanLandingham. He is presently serving as interim pastor for Sturgis Church.

VanLandingham is a senior at Mississippi State University where he is involved in BSU. He serves in the summers at Central Hills. Higdon Herrington is pastor at Mathiston.

Jerry Nance, minister of music at Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast, has resigned to accept a similar position with Plainview Church, Pensacola, Florida.

Gerald Simmons has resigned as minister of music at Bond Church.

Ken Pollock is pastor of Euclatuba Church, Saltillo. He and his wife, Carole, have two sons, Brian and Thomas at home, a married daughter, Gena, and a grandson.

Keith Rogers is the new minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Gulfport. He formerly served at the Cowan Road Church.

Cowan Road Church, Gulf Coast, has called Ed Holmes as interim pastor.

Diamondhead Church, Bay St. Louis, has called George Paul, student at Mississippi State, as summer youth minister.

First Church, Wiggins, has called Jeff Ingram to be minister of education and activities.

Johnny Dalton is new minister of music and education at Bel Aire Church, Gulf Coast. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary and is a native of Rayville, La.

Terry L. Williams has accepted the pastorate of Meadowview Church effective Feb 7. A native of Wayne County, Williams is going to Starkville from Mantee Church, Webster County. He has also held pastorates in Scott, Newton, and Smith counties.

Williams holds a B.A. degree with special distinction from Mississippi College and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He received his doctorate degree from Luther Rice Seminary.

Williams and his wife, Norrie, have one son, Nathaniel, 18 months.

During his pastorate at Mantee Church, Williams wrote sermons for the Webster county newspaper and participated in several evangelistic crusades in Korea, where two Southern Baptist churches were planted with 60 converts baptized. Williams is now in the process of having his new book published "James Speaks Today."

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## The times of Carter

(Continued from page 6)

five churches in his lifetime, including Calvary Church in Newton. He served Calvary without pay for several of its early years and remained a faithful member and teacher there until he was in his 90's.

In 1965, the Carters' two sons, Dr. John T. Carter of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Dr. Henry S. Carter, physician in DeRidder, La., honored their parents on their 50th wedding anniversary by establishing a scholarship fund at Clarke in their name. In 1975, on their 60th anniversary the sons gave a reception for the Carters in Newton. Friends of the family, knowing the circumstances of their "honeymoon," presented them a cash gift to be used specifically for a second honeymoon. The Carters used the money to travel again to Southwestern Seminary, this time to visit their granddaughter, who was a student there.

In the fall of 1979, failing health took Dr. and Mrs. Carter to a hospital in Louisiana. While there Mattie suffered a stroke and went to be with the Lord. In the months that followed he regained some strength, worked on a revision of his book on Revelation, and celebrated his 92nd birthday. In July, 1989, however, he put down the work of his life and went to join the Savior he had served so faithfully.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Carter made an impact on Mississippi Baptists.

Nell Carter Brannum is an assistant in the Texas Baptist Historical Collection at Southwestern Seminary, and is a granddaughter of John T. Carter.

## Devotional

### Celebrate love . . . action

By John L. Walker

This month in our devotionals, we have focused on the subject of celebrating love. We have talked about love of parents, marriage partners, and God's love. There is a common denominator between each of these that helps us celebrate

love. That common thread is action. George Kelm, my archaeology professor at New Orleans Seminary, often included in his prayers, "Thank you, God, for every expression of your love." Yes, true love is a love of action that benefits others. John 3:16 tells us that God's love was demonstrated in the act of giving his Son. This, of course, is the supreme expression of God's love.

We are charged to legitimize our words and commitment. John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Also in John 15:12, "This is my commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you." James 2:8-9, "If ye fulfill the royal law, according to the scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors." I John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples; if ye have love one to another."

I do not know to whom credit should be given but the enriching effect of the following statement is thrilling. "Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service and from solitude to kinship with all mankind."

Let me suggest a couple of practical ways and remind you of one story Jesus told, that will help put love into action.

1. It is one thing for us to say to someone, "If I can do something for you, let me know." It is an act of love and helpfulness to open your eyes, see something you can do, and go ahead and do it.

2. It is one thing for us to say, "Sure I will pray for you." It is an act of love and helpfulness to bow right there where you are and pray with the person.

3. After Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, He told his followers, "Go, and do likewise." I've been ministered to many times by C. Roy Angell's outline on this story. Under the title, "Three Ways of Living," he observes the thieves saying, "What's thine is mine if I can get it," the priest and Levite saying, "What's mine is mine and I'm going to keep it," and the Samaritan saying, "What's mine is mine and I'm going to keep it," and the Samaritan saying, "What's mine is thine if you need it."

How well do you celebrate love? Your actions will tell the real story.

John L. Walker is pastor, First, Lucedale.



Walker

## Southern names McSwain dean

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Church and community professor Larry McSwain has been named dean of the School of Theology at Southern Seminary here.

Southern Seminary faculty member since 1970, McSwain will assume the deanship Aug. 1 after completing a spring sabbatical. He will succeed G. Willis Bennett.

## Reception to honor Richland pastor

Richland's First Church will honor its new pastor, Allen H. Stephens, and his wife, Omega, and daughters, Shanda and Ashlee, with a reception Sunday, Feb. 28, from 2 until 4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall at 1102 Highway 49 South, Richland.

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## Millsaps College will offer CONTACT training classes

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Laypersons who complete CONTACT training are asked to pay \$25 to cover the cost of materials (scholarships are available) and to give eight hours' volunteer service a month. Ministers are not asked to pay for their materials or to perform volunteer service at CONTACT.

Classes will be held every Mon. night, beginning Feb. 29, at Millsaps College, Jackson. There are two Sat. sessions. For more information, or to register, call 982-8614. Evenings and weekends, call the crisis line at 982-1221.



# The burden of stealing: the eighth commandment

By M. Dean Register

Several years ago a thief named Willard Wright consented to an experimental operation that involved cutting specified nerve pathways to the brain. It was a radical and controversial attempt to discover a cure for his urge to steal. Following surgery he behaved so well that he was soon paroled. He received a job, got married, and gave every evidence of going straight. But five years later he was arrested for robbery again and sentenced to prison. "With me the surgery just didn't work," he said. Commenting on his situation, *Time Magazine* said, "Neither police nor neurosurgeons learned what makes an incurable thief or how to cure one."



Register

Why do people steal? According to U.S. government statistics, about four million people are caught shop-lifting each year and millions more go undetected. According to insurance statistics, 25 percent of all business

## LIFE AND WORK

failures can be traced to internal theft. Hotel and motel managers claim that one out of three guests will steal something. Public and private libraries have an average of 200-300 books or pamphlets stolen each year.

Pilfering, swiping, snitching, filching, robbing, ripping-off, or any other synonym is confronted by the eighth commandment: "Thou shalt not steal" (Ex 20:15). Stealing is essentially a breach of trust. It is a violation of another's possession or property. At the core of our civilization is the right of a person to possess what is his own. At the core of stealing is a blatant disregard for the value of persons and their possessions. Stealing can manifest itself in many ways, but primarily we steal from three persons:

First, we steal from God. Throughout the Old Testament, property was sacred because it belonged to God. Roy Honeycutt mentions it in his book, *These Ten Words*, that "property is God's to give, not man's to steal." The attempt

to secure another's goods or property without consent is an encroachment upon the prerogative of God.

An obvious manner that people steal from God is by withholding their tithes. The stinging indictment of Malachi is hurled into the face of contemporary Christianity: "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me . . . in tithes and offerings." (Mal. 3:8 NASV). The old adage remains appropriate — if a person steals from God he or she will steal from anybody.

Second, we steal from others. The prophet Amos depicts an all too frequent occurrence of cheating the poor, selling worthless products, using false measures, and overcharging (Amos 8:4-7). In this sense, stealing includes taking advantage of a person's money. Employers who pilfer wages from employees must face the realization of theft by deprivation. A college student who steals information from a classmate is engaging in academic cheating. A teen-ager who steals the dignity from another teen by spreading a rumor is just as wrong as the pilfering employer and the college cheater. Dare we admit that a busy mother or father

often steals time from the family by squandering hours upon trivial pursuits?

Third, we steal from ourselves. The Apostle Paul's admonition was plain and simple. "Don't steal. Work hard and share with others" (Eph. 4:28). There is no justification for stealing and any attempts at rationalization only confirm our error. While visiting a young man in jail, a pastor heard him confess that his acts of stealing hurt himself as much as others. "I stole from me," he said. I stole my self-respect and that hurts badly."

Ultimately, the act of stealing, like any other sin, damages one's self. Sin always does in the doer because the wages of sin exact the price of death. The good news of the gospel, however, is that there is forgiveness and abundant life through Jesus Christ. Whether one has stolen or been the victim of stealing, the message of Ephesians 4:32 is a healing imperative: "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

## Joseph remains strong in adversity

By Gayle Alexander  
Genesis 39:1 to 40:23

Beginning in chapter 39, and running through all of these stories, one sees the chain of providences that led to the preservation of Israel in Egypt. The dominating purpose of the author to make this obvious appears at every turn. Two other important developments are magnified later. One is that of Joseph, the other is that of Judah. Both suffered for the sake of their brethren and thereby both became servants and leaders. It is shown through these stories that suffering is a part of God's plan to preserve Israel.



Alexander

The Ishmaelites, who had bought Joseph from his brothers, brought him to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian named Potiphar. Potiphar was one of the chief officers of the Pharaoh. He was the chief executioner, either of the prison, or, of the slaughtering of animals for cooking. The word for guard is the same word for cook. Joseph began his work in Egypt as a slave and an alien. He became a personal attendant to Potiphar.

"And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man . . ." (39:2). This refrain oc-

## BIBLE BOOK

curs again and again (39:2, 3, 21, 23). Potiphar recognized in Joseph a young man who was quick, alert, and trustworthy. Also, he recognized that Joseph's success came about because of his God. Joseph probably had shared many things about his God and the high ethical standards God requires.

Joseph worked with all of his heart. It is of paramount importance for one who has been deeply hurt by the sins of another to have a vision that gives hope for the future and a forgiveness that prevents the development of bitterness. Joseph lived with no bitterness. Had bitterness developed, he could not have worked with enthusiasm and industrialism. He did his very best as a slave (Note Ephesians 6:5-7 and Colossians 3:22-23).

Joseph, who had already been identified as being attractive, was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife. Probably, she paid no attention to him until he became a person of position and authority. She sought to seduce him. Joseph refused her advances without being judgemental. He would not violate Potiphar's trust since she was his wife and private possession. Also, he appealed to her on moral grounds that such behavior was sin against God.

All sin is against God because morality is rooted in God. It is to his everlasting credit that he followed such high moral standards in his life. This is further evidence that Joseph had no bitterness in his life because there is a definite correlation between bitterness and immorality (Note Hebrews 12:15-16). The verb forms indicate that her efforts to seduce him were continual, and his refusals were continual. This testifies even more to the tremendous quality of morality in Joseph.

Joseph had no choice to move, or to change jobs, since he was a slave. He had to continue serving. She waited until a strategic time when all of the men were gone to make her advances demonstrative. She caught him, but Joseph let her have his outer garment and fled the house. Her attraction to him became revenge. The frustrated temptress became a slanderer. In a rage, she tried to get the sympathy of other servants and falsely accused "that Hebrew slave" (39:17) of evil intent in order to stir up her husband in the hopes that he would have him killed. Apparently, Potiphar did not believe all of the story at face value because Joseph was imprisoned instead.

"And the Lord was with him . . ." (39:21) in prison just as he had been with him in Potiphar's house. Joseph gained favor with the prison warden and he was given a place of

responsibility in the prison. God's favor brought success to Joseph once again.

The butler and baker, high officials of the king's court, came into disfavor with the Pharaoh and were cast into the same prison where Joseph was being held. Each had dreams which they did not understand and were saddened. Joseph, with the spirit of a servant, and with the help of God (40:8) interpreted both dreams. The butler was restored to favor. However, the fate of the baker was death. Joseph was so positive that the dreams were to be fulfilled that he made a request of the butler to be remembered to the king. Also, Joseph shared with him the fact that he had been unjustly sold, falsely accused, and unjustly imprisoned.

Joseph's predictions were fulfilled in 40:20-23. Both men were set free from the prison. Hope rose in the heart of Joseph. The butler "did not remember Joseph, but forgot" (40:23). The larger purposes of God are served through difficulties. When God is ready to use a man significantly there will be the death of a vision. Joseph had the vision of what God wanted for his life when he was 17 years of age. That vision died with him twice. Later we shall see the rest of the story.

Gayle Alexander, is pastor, First, Tupelo.

## The way to greatness: to lead by serving

By Jimmy G. McGee  
Matthew 20:17-28

If we believe Jesus' teaching and follow his example, the way to greatness is by unselfish service and ministry to others. Jesus had a



McGee

clear sense of direction, the result of which is the greatest joy and hope for us — life eternal! Who Jesus is is important; but we cannot duplicate his person. What Jesus did is important; but we cannot duplicate his cross. How Jesus did it is important; that is our example and the way for us.

Notice the sequence of our scripture lesson leading to the key to truth. "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:27-28).

An important disclosure: Jesus informs the 12 of his imminent plans. He is going now to Jerusalem to suffer and to die and to be raised on the third day. According to Matthew, this is Jesus' third time to predict his suffering. This time he discloses the method of crucifixion as the way of death. Earlier the disciples had

responded with rebuke (16:22) and with exceeding sorrow (17:33). This time there is no recorded response. Jesus is committed to the way of the cross for our salvation and the time is now.

A Misguided Request: The mother of James and John, two of the intimate three disciples, asks Jesus for particular positions of honor for her sons in his kingdom. Perhaps she assumes Jesus' kingdom will be organized according to world patterns and her sons would be good choices for the top spots. The positions would indicate honor and authority. It may be a natural request of an eager mother, but it is misguided. Human nature is prone to seek the best place for oneself without consideration of others. The disciples do not understand the true nature of Jesus' Kingdom.

A forthright answer: "You do not know what you ask." Jesus began his answer. Much of the confusion in our churches today indicates that many Christians still do not understand. Jesus' answer raises a serious question. "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about the drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptiz-

ed with?" The "cup" and "baptism" signify the intense suffering of Jesus for our sake as he fulfills God's will. To celebrate the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism are important reminders of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

James and John were assured that they would get to drink the cup and be baptized as Jesus. James was the first disciple to die a martyr (witness — Acts 12:1-2). John lived to be the oldest of the disciples. Jesus verified that the disciples would suffer in following Jesus faithfully. Jesus, our Lord and example, is submissive to the Father in granting positions.

The Indignant Ten: The other ten disciples are bothered, naturally, and reveal not only their disappointment in the two but their own desires for the top positions. Now, all the disciples are involved with deep feelings, competing for the greatness associated with position. Jesus now has the opportunity to teach them and us the way of Christian greatness. It's exactly opposite of the world's viewpoint.

The Christian Way: Success in the world is viewed largely by the position achieved. People with position exercise authority and rule over others. It will not be so for Christians. Greatness is in relationship with others. What

Jesus is saying is not a put-down on position, but it is a how-to for leadership. Christians are to lead by serving.

Jesus had position without which he could not have saved us. He came, however, not to be served and saluted, but to minister. He gave his life for us! The disciples would have position in the spread and interpretation of the gospel. They must use it rightly by giving themselves in submission to the lordship of Jesus and in service to others.

Every Christian has a position in Christ's kingdom and is expected to use it in faithfulness. Christians are to be genuinely sensitive to others and to contribute to the good of others. If you want to be "great" with Jesus, plan to be a servant. If you want to be first, plan to be a slave. "Servant" and "slave" describe submissiveness to the will of God in all things, the attitude of servanthood, and the practice of helping others.

This servanthood is not the natural thing to do: it's the "born-again" thing to do. True greatness in Christ's kingdom comes by giving oneself unselfishly and deliberately. Believe Jesus and follow his example. Use your gift to help another along Christ's way.

Jimmy McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.



# Baptist Record

## Paints replace patchwork

By Anne W. McWilliams

The Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Calhoun City, celebrated the centennial of WMU, SBC, with a pageant at the church Sunday evening, February 14, at the beginning of WMU Focus Week. This centennial also marked the 81st anniversary of this church's WMU, which was organized in February, 1907. Writer of the script for the

pageant was Mrs. Lyda Pearl Eakin.

A Centennial Corner had been set up at the church to display historic items related to WMU. A handmade quilt using the WMU Centennial Quilt design added both interest and beauty to the display. The quilt was different to others which have been pictured in the Baptist Record in that all the squares were painted by hand, rather than pieced from fabrics. The artist who did the painting was Mrs.

Lyda Pearl Eakin. Other members of the Calhoun City WMU did the quilting. The creator has donated the quilt to the WMU, according to the church's Centennial chairman, Mrs. Frankie Ann Martin.

Probably similar quilts around the state have been painted, but this was the first reported to the Record. Possibly some quilt makers have combined painting and piecing. At least one church, First, Clinton, WMU cross-stitched theirs. It was on display at the Hinds-Madison WMU Centennial celebration on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson.

Mrs. Eakin said she got the pattern for painting the quilt from her daughter, Mary Helen Roy, who painted a quilt for her own church's WMU in Monterey, La.

This talented and dedicated wife, mother, church worker, poet, and artist has also painted other quilts, including squares which she has ready to put together with the birds and flowers of the 50 states. Her Dolls of Nations quilt has often been used by missions organizations of the church.

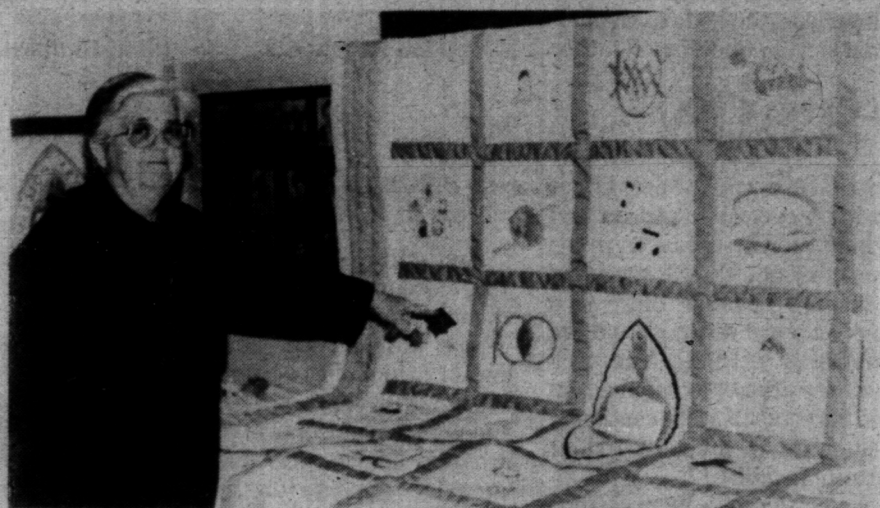
For over 30 years she taught young children in Sunday School, and for a long time she was a leader to Church Training, working with older children.

Since her 1987 retirement from Kellwood, manufacturer of men's and boys' pants, she says she has had more time to devote to the textile painting. She had worked at Kellwood for 34 years.

Her husband, Jack Eakin, who worked in road construction, is also retired. Their other daughter, Jackie Boland, lives in Calhoun City.

Mrs. Eakin, the former Lyda Pearl Clark, was born in Calhoun County, one of ten children — nine girls and one boy.

Another of her hobbies is writing. As one of her fellow WMU members said, "If anyone around here wants anything written, they ask Mrs. Eakin to write it." One of her poems is a tribute to her Aunt Lyda Ellard, for whom she is named, and who was featured in a "Faces and Places" column several years ago.



Lyda Pearl Eakin points to the "100" square in the centennial quilt she painted for First, Calhoun City's WMU celebration.



Mrs. Eakin's Dolls of Nations quilt is used often by missions organizations of her church.

## Seminarian sows seeds in Quarter

By Breana Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Larry Burton was handing out gospel tracts in New Orleans' French Quarter when he noticed a girl, about two blocks away, walking toward him.

"I looked at her, and she caught my eye, and I kept looking at her," said Burton. "I could tell she was a street person."

"When she got to me, she said, 'Do you want something?'"

"I said, 'Yes, I want something. I want you to take this tract, and I want you to read it.' A few moments later, he looked back. She was sitting on a curb, oblivious to the crowd around her, reading the tract.

"That's when I saw the importance of the tract ministry," said Burton, who knows most of the tracts he hands out end up on the street. "Twenty may be thrown in a corner, but one is read. That one plants the seed. And that's what we're called to do."

But passing out tracts is only one of the ways the Birmingham, Ala., native "plants seeds" in the Quarter. Often, he will sit on a park bench in Jackson Square next to a stranger and strike up a conversation. Many of the people he talks to do not have a place to stay or food to eat. Burton will direct them to one of the Baptist centers nearby that can meet their needs.

A doctor of theology student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Burton finds unique ways of establishing relationships with locals in the city's historic district.

For instance, Burton made friends with a bookstore owner in the Quarter by coming into his store every week to read a book until he finished it.

"It was a year before he even approached the subject of religion," Burton said. The store owner, who was dissatisfied with his own religion, discussed with Burton the differences between their churches. Soon afterwards, the store owner called him because he wanted to talk. That evening, he accepted Christ.



## Powerline for teens

### I don't plan to have children

I'd like to be married someday, but I don't plan on having children, because my career demands that I travel and move around a great deal. Children need a secure place to grow up, and I think it would be unfair to raise a child that way. People say I'm selfish for not wanting to have children. What do you think?

It is good to be considering this important issue before marriage, and certainly it is true that not all people have the ability or resources to be good parents. However, it may be premature to

make a firm decision at this point in your life. You cannot know what direction your career may take. By the time you are ready to start a family, your situation may be completely changed.

Even though you don't have children, there are many ways in which you can invest your parenting instincts, by developing relationships with the children in your family, neighborhood or church. Often a close friend of the family can be a very strong influence in a child's life, for children also need adults other than their parents to guide and challenge them.

When you do find the person you want to marry, discuss this issue frankly together. It is not so important what you decide, so long as you decide together and you are in harmony on the matter.

## Results of Margaret Lackey will last all year long

By Hope Hurst

God loves a cheerful giver. How many times have you heard that? It seems like every time you turn around there's a different offering soliciting your financial support or your prayers. Most of the time you don't see your money working for Christ. Usually you hear or read about it in a paper, but sometimes you don't hear anything at all. It's a real letdown not to be able to see some results.

Well, there's an offering that only asks for your help once a year, but you can see the results of your money around you all year long. Isn't that neat to give once and see the results time and time again?

The offering that I am talking about is the Margaret Lackey Offering which has its emphasis in September.

There are several places where the money from this offering goes. If you have any children who are GAs or RAs, you could send them to camp in the summer. Central Hills is for boys and Camp Garaywa is for girls. These camps are funded by this state offering.

Help is also there for the churches who don't have enough money to pay for the land that their church is built on. Help can also be received by churches who can't pay their pastors for their work.

Inmates need to be reached with the gospel. They need to know that someone cares for them. This can also be accomplished through the state offering.

For those people who don't know how they can help... they need to know about this offering and how it helps others. Some of the money that is given to this offering covers ex-

penses to print materials explaining the Margaret Lackey Offering.

God loves a cheerful giver. Get ready because September is not far away.

Hope Hurst, 17, is a member of First Church, Bruce. In Acteens, she wrote this article as a project toward earning her Mississippi Citation.

"The best safety device in a car is a rear view mirror with a policeman in it."

— GIL STERN

Baptist Record

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